

In the claims:

Please substitute the following full listing of claims for the claims as originally filed or most recently amended. No amendments to the claims are currently presented.

1. (Previously presented) A Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) application;

means for prompting a user through a series of screens to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested to provide a detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee;

means for selecting suppliers;

means for submitting a notification to contracted suppliers selected in said selecting step by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application;

means for said suppliers to retrieve and review said detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee and submit a candidate against said detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee;

means for receiving from a supplier a candidate or candidates with appended resumes, as appropriate; and

means for displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.

2. (Previously Presented) The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit a candidate or candidates.

3. (Currently Amended) The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, further comprising means for responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and procurement process running on a computer system.

4. (Previously Presented) A Web-based Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

means for accessing the SMA from a Web-based Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) Web application;

means for selecting, by a user who needs to request a technical contractor, a SMA Web site;

means for prompting the user through a series of screens in the SMA Web site to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested to provide a detailed statement of required employee skills and abilities;

means for selecting suppliers;

means for submitting a notification to contracted

suppliers selected in said selecting step who are sent an e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application;

means for suppliers to access the SMA Web site database by a supplier to view the detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee of a said request;

means for providing, by a supplier, a candidate or candidates by accessing the SMA Web site and submitting candidates and appending resumes as appropriate; and

means for viewing, by the user, the supplier responses and associated resumes and either accepting or rejecting each candidate submitted.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer system running Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising:

means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) application also running on the computer system;

a display system for prompting a user through a series of screens to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested to provide a detailed statement of required employee skills and abilities;

means for selecting suppliers;

transmitting means for submitting a notification to contracted suppliers selected in said selecting step by e-mail notification notifying the supplier

that a new request has been entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

means for retrieving and reviewing said detailed statement of required skills and abilities for an employee in response to said notification; and

receiving means for receiving, from a supplier, a candidate or candidates with appended resumes as appropriate, said display system displaying₁ for the user₁ the supplier responses and associated resumes.

6. (Original) The computer system of claim 5, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site running on the computer system is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit a candidate or candidates.

7. (Original) The computer system of claim 5, further comprising means for responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and procurement process running on said computer system.